

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01944 150816Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1050
INFO EUCOM
HQ USAFE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1944

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, TU
SUBJ: BILLS FOR LANDING FEES

REF: 75 STATE 208069 (DTG 022045Z SEP 75)

1. MFA DIRECTOR FOR BILATERAL DEFENSE AGREEMENTS HALUK OZGUL CALLED IN MSA COUNSELOR FRANCIS, MARCH 6 AND INTER ALIA, RAISED THE SUBJECT OF PARKING AND LANDING FEES FOR US MILITARY AIRCRAFT USING CIVILIAN AIRFIELDS. OZGUL REMINDED MSA COUNSELOR THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO FURTHER WORD ON THIS ISSUE SINCE THE MARCH 1977 EMBASSY NOTE WHICH INFORMED THE MINISTRY THAT THE ISSUE HAD BEEN REFERRED TO WASHINGTON.

2. OZGUL NOTED THAT PARKING AND LANDING FEES AS OF SEPTEMBER 1977, AMOUNTED TO US DOLLARS 193,254.84. THESE "FEES" HE SAID WERE NOT A TAX BUT PAYMENT FOR SERVICES. SIMILAR CLAIMS, OZGUL SAID WERE BEING MADE ON ALL NATO COUNTRIES IN RESPONSE TO THE REPEATED DEMAND OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION, AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.

3. COMMENT: THE ISSUE OF AIRCRAFT LANDING FEES HAS RECURRED REGULARLY OVER THE YEARS AND PARTICULARLY SINCE THE TURKS CLAIMED
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THE 1954 AIR TECHNICAL AGREEMENT WAS VOIDED AND THE 1954 TAX RELIEF AGREEMENT WAS SUSPENDED IN 1975 UNDER PROVISIONAL STATUS. OZGUL NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN UNDER THE 1954 TAX RELIEF AGREEMENT THE US WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY THESE LANDING FEES. OUR RECORDS INDICATE THAT THE MOST RECENT INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF LANDING FEE PAYMENT IS REFTEL DATED SEPTEMBER 2, 1975. BASED ON THOSE INSTRUCTIONS, USAF CREWS WILL CONTINUE TO SIGN

BILLS FOR AIRPORT FEES IF REQUIRED BUT UNDER PROTEST AND PAYMENT
IS DEFERRED WHEN THE BILLS ARE PRESENTED TO THE EMBASSY.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DRAW FROM THE INSTRUCTIONS
IN PARA 3 REFTTEL, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT OZGUL'S DEMARCHE
WAS ROUTINE AND THAT THE TURKS DO NOT WANT TO PRESS THIS ISSUE
SERIOUSLY AT THIS TIME. THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS THAT
THE AIRPORT ADMINISTRATION IS CONTEMPLATING RESTRICTING USAF
AIRCRAFT FROM CIVILIAN AIRFIELDS BUT THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS.
WE WILL BE CHECKING WITH OTHER NATO NATIONS TO VERIFY THAT
THEIR MILITARY AIRCRAFT ARE BEING SIMILARLY BILLED FOR AIRPORT
FEES.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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